UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/48/3
31 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Item 124 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly decisions 44/442 of 21 December 1989 and 45/450 of 20 December 1991, requesting the Secretary-General to continue to submit to it annual reports on standards of accommodation for air travel. It covers the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993. As also requested by the General Assembly in its decision 40/455 of 18 December 1985 and its resolution 45/248 A, section XIII, of 21 December 1990, respectively, information is included on all expenditures by the United Nations for first-class air travel and on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions have been made for first-class air travel.

2. During the period under review, standards of accommodation for air travel were governed by General Assembly resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, in which the Assembly provided that all individuals, with the exception of the Secretary-General and the heads of delegations of the least developed countries to regular, special or emergency special sessions of the General Assembly, whose travel was financed by United Nations organizations and programmes and who had been previously entitled to first-class accommodation, would be required to travel at the class immediately below first class. In the same resolution, the Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel on a case-by-case basis.

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

I. DELEGATION TRAVEL

3. As indicated in paragraph 2, General Assembly resolution 42/214 limits the payment of first-class accommodation by air to one representative of each Member State designated as a least developed country attending regular, special or emergency special sessions of the Assembly. Table 1 sets out the expenditures arising from payment of such travel.

Table 1. First-class travel with respect to representatives of Member States attending the General Assembly

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

	No. of journeys a/	Total cost of travel $
Forty-seventh session of the General Assembly	32	168 511
Total	32	168,511

a/ Journeys of delegations whose claims have been submitted to date.

II. EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4. As stated above, General Assembly resolution 42/214 authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class air travel on a case-by-case basis. In addition, business-class travel by air may be authorized by the Secretary-General in certain circumstances, in accordance with administrative instruction ST/AI/249/Rev.3 of 29 March 1989.

5. Generally, in reviewing cases that may warrant an exception, the Secretary-General takes into consideration the following circumstances:

(a) A medical condition may exist necessitating a level of comfort not available in the normal standard of accommodation to which the traveller is entitled. Such cases are referred to the United Nations Medical Director for recommendation. Exceptions may also be granted when a traveller is of an advanced age and the normal standard of travel would have a detrimental effect on the traveller's health;

(b) The normal standard of accommodation is not available and, owing to the exigencies of the service, the traveller is required to travel on a particular date. Cases also arise where accommodation at the normal entitlement is not available and the cost of daily subsistence allowance, whilst waiting for the next available seat, would be greater than the higher standard of travel;

(c) The traveller is considered an eminent person, such as a former head of State;

(d) Where the traveller is a prominent person who is donating his or her services free of charge to the Organization, and, in some cases, at a loss of personal income, such individuals may be accorded the standard of accommodation which they normally use when travelling;

(e) The traveller, after completing a full day of work, is required to travel through the night in order to resume work, attend meetings or present a paper at another location on the following morning or immediately upon arrival. Where such cases involve arduous journeys, it has been deemed reasonable that the standard of accommodation accorded to the traveller provides the best rest possible while travelling, or provides conditions most conducive to work while flying, or both.

6. In respect of the exceptions to air travel authorized during the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993 owing to the circumstances referred to in paragraph 5 above, the present report provides, in annexes I to VI, detailed information as to the additional cost of, and reasons for, such exceptions.

7. For travel during the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993, the Secretary-General exercised his discretion by authorizing, as an exception, 66 cases of first-class air travel. In addition, during the same period, the Secretary-General authorized business-class travel by air as an exception to the standards of accommodation in 69 cases.

8. It should be noted that, during the period under review, the Secretary-General or his designated representative was accompanied on all trips by a personal aide/security officer who also travelled by air in first-class. Exceptions to the standards of accommodation were not, however, sought in these cases.

9. For the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993, the total additional cost incurred by the Organization as a result of exceptions to the applicable provisions was $149,553. This compares with a total additional cost of $201,373 (adjusted - see para. 11 below) for the previous reporting period.

10. For purposes of comparison, tables 2 and 3 provide a summary, by category, of all exceptions granted during the present and previous reporting periods. It will be noted that there has been a significant decrease in the total number of exceptions authorized, as well as in the additional cost involved.

11. In the context of monitoring adherence to the standards of accommodation for air travel, cases were identified in which a higher standard of air travel was undertaken than the normal entitlement, for which no exception had been sought or granted. In a number of these cases, subsequent ex post facto approval was sought for an exception to the standards of accommodation. In this regard, details of the exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General for the previous reporting period are outlined in annex VI to the present report.

Table 2. Summary of exceptions

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

Reasons for exceptions	First class		Business class		Total	
	Number of trips	Additional cost $	Number of trips	Additional cost $	Number of trips	Additional cost $
Medical condition or advanced age	15	30 842	10	9 970	25	40 812
Regular standard of accommodation not available	12	3 427	13	2 782	25	6 209
Eminent persons	19	30 712	45	24 587	64	55 299
Donating services free of charge to the Organization	2	6 926	1	217	3	7 143
Arduous journeys	9	21 324	0	0	9	21 324
Personal aides/ security officer	9	18 756	0	0	9	18 766
Total	66	111 997	69	37 556	135	149 553

Table 3. Summary of exceptions

(1 July 1991-30 June 1992) a/

Reasons for exceptions	First class		Business class		Total	
	Number of trips	Additional cost $	Number of trips	Additional cost $	Number of trips	Additional cost $
Medical condition or advanced age	22	36 493	13	18 866	35	55 359
Regular standard of accommodation not available	27	10 614	13	2 046	40	12 660
Eminent persons	42	70 772	32	13 654	74	84 426
Donating services free of charge to the Organization	5	7 995	0	0	5	7 995
Arduous journeys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal aides/ security officer	18	40 933	0	0	18	40 933
Total	114	166 807	58	34 566	172	201 373

a/ Adjusted for ex post facto authorizations.

Annex I

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED OWING TO MEDICAL CONDITION OR ADVANCED AGE

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A. First class		
Chairman, Committee on Contributions	Lahore/Karachi/Amsterdam/ Vienna/Amsterdam/New York/ Zurich/London/Zurich/Karachi/ Lahore	1 146
Chairman, Committee on Contributions	Lahore/Karachi/Amsterdam/ Paris/Amsterdam/New York/ Amsterdam/Karachi/Lahore	1 123
Staff member, Department of Public Information (DPI)	Manama/New York	1 200
Staff member, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	.../Washington/Frankfurt/ Addis Ababa/Asmara/Addis Ababa/ Frankfurt/Oslo/New York a/	1 208
Staff member, UNDP	New York/Port Louis/ Washington/...	2 463
Staff member, UNDP	.../Amsterdam/New York	1 343
Member, United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT)	London/New York/London	3 300
Dependant of staff member, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	La Paz/Philadelphia/...	645
Dependant of staff member, UNICEF	La Paz/Philadelphia/...	645
Member, UNAT	New Delhi/Geneva/New Delhi	750
Member, UNAT	New Delhi/New York/New Delhi	2 100

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Nairobi/Cairo/Geneva/.../ Amsterdam/Geneva/London/ Washington/New York/ Washington/Boston/Cambridge/ Boston/Zurich/Geneva/Nairobi	1 756
Executive Director, UNEP	Nairobi/Cairo/New York/Cairo	1 566
Executive Director, UNEP	Rio de Janeiro/Paris/Cairo/ Zurich/Geneva/London/New York/ Geneva/Zurich/Vienna/Piestany/ Vienna/Geneva/Cairo/Nairobi	2 679
Executive Director, UNEP	Nairobi/Cairo/Rome/ Geneva/Madrid/Seville/Madrid/ New York/Toronto/Montreal/ New York/Geneva/Paris/Tokyo/ Osaka/Bangkok/Frankfurt/Geneva/ Zurich/Gothenburg/Zurich/ Geneva/Brussels/Geneva/ Copenhagen/Geneva/Paris/ Montevideo/Rio de Janeiro/ London/Nairobi	8 918
Total A		30 842
B. Business class		
Staff member, Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD)	New York/Rome/Paris/New York	1 783
Staff member, DESD	New York/Paris/Rome/Paris/ Rome/New York	653
Staff member, DESD	New York/Geneva/Rome/ Turin/New York	444
Staff member, Department of Political Affairs (DPA)	.../Paris/New York	873
Staff member, DPA	New York/Cape Town/New York	1 809
Staff member, DPA	New York/Geneva/New York	1 445
Staff member, DPA	New York/Geneva/New York	361

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost
		$
Staff member, DPA	New York/London/New York	1 556
Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Stuttgart/Geneva	722
Staff member, UNICEF	New York/Madrid/Copenhagen/ Oslo/Ottawa/Newark	324
Total B		9 970
Grand total A and B		40 812

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex II

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED WHEN THE REGULAR STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A. First class		
Participant, UNEP Workshop	Nairobi/Douala	126
Consultant, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	.../Sana'a/Damascus a/	360
Staff member, DPA	.../Rome/Asmara/...	344
Staff member, UNHCR	Dhaka/Beijing/...	251
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs	.../Amman/London/...	235
Consultant, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)	.../Cairo/Larnaca	40
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	.../Abidjan/Freetown/...	100
Staff member, Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA)	.../Amman/Geneva	606
Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	New York/Mexico City/New York	180
Staff member, DHA	.../Amman/Geneva	606
Staff member, DHA	.../Amman/London/...	235
Staff member, Department of Administration and Management	.../Rome/Asmara/...	344
Total A		3 427

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
B. Business class		
Staff member, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	.../Addis Ababa/Cairo/...	56
Consultant, DHA	.../London/Gibraltar	133
Consultant, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	New Delhi/Bangkok	42
Participant in the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Protection of Natural and Man-made Environment by Measures on Human Settlements Development, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	Nairobi/Addis Ababa/...	30
Staff member, Habitat	.../Addis Ababa/Cairo/...	56
Participant in the Seminar on Programme Planning in the United Nations	Geneva/New York	1 887
Staff member, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Santiago/Quito	- 122
Consultant, Habitat	.../Johannesburg/ Nairobi/...	52
Staff member, ESCAP	.../Beijing/Bangkok	80
Staff member, DHA	.../Geneva/New York	156
Staff member, Habitat	.../Addis Ababa/Cairo	56

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Consultant, Habitat	.../Addis Ababa/Cairo	56
Staff member, Habitat	.../Addis Ababa/Cairo	56
Total B		2 782
Grand total A and B		6 209

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex III

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR EMINENT PERSONS

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A. First class		
(i) Meeting of the Development and Environmental Commission for Amazonia		
Former President of Mexico	Mexico City/New York/ Mexico City	629
Former President of Colombia	Bogota/New York/ Bogota	562
Former President of Costa Rica	San José/New York/ San José	417
Total (i)		1 608
(ii) International Conference of the African Centre for Development and Strategies Studies (ACDESS)		--
Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam/Dakar/ Dar-es-Salaam	3 837
Total (ii)		3 837
(iii) Sasakawa Prize Selection Committee		
Member, Selection Committee	Jeddah/Geneva/Jeddah	737
Member, Selection Committee	Bogota/Geneva/Bogota	1 532
Member, Selection Committee	London/Geneva/London	293
Member, Selection Committee	Nairobi/Geneva/Nairobi	860
Member, Selection Committee	Wilmington/Geneva/Wilmington	2 226

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Representative of Mr. R. Sasakawa	Tokyo/Geneva/Tokyo	4 552
Total (iii)		10 200
(iv) World Conference on Human Rights		
Former President of the Philippines	Manila/Vienna/Manila	1 580
Human rights activist	Washington/Vienna/ Washington	2 304
Former President of the United States of America	Atlanta/Vienna/Atlanta	2 448
Nobel Laureate	Mexico City/Vienna/ Mexico City	1 639
The Crown Prince of Jordan	Amman/Vienna/Amman	585
Nobel Laureate	New York/Vienna/New York	2 304
President of the African National Congress (ANC)	Johannesburg/Vienna/ Johannesburg	1 157
Total (iv)		12 017
(v) Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission		
Chairman, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia	Jakarta/New York/Jakarta	1 500
Chairman, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia	Geneva/New York/Jakarta	1 550
Total (v)		3 050
Total A		30 712

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
B. Business class		
(i) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)/Ministry of Foreign Affairs Management and Trade Seminar		
Ambassador of Ethiopia to the Sudan	Khartoum/Addis Ababa/Khartoum	254
Ambassador of Ethiopia to Italy	Rome/Addis Ababa/Rome	726
Ambassador of Ethiopia to Egypt	Cairo/Addis Ababa/Cairo	95
Ambassador of Ethiopia to Saudi Arabia	Jeddah/Addis Ababa/Jeddah	268
Ambassador of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Iran	Tehran/Addis Ababa/Tehran	252
Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kenya	Nairobi/Addis Ababa/Nairobi	17
Ambassador of Ethiopia to Iraq	Riyadh/Addis Ababa/Riyadh	366
Total (i)		1 978
(ii) International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine		
Publisher, Gesher newspaper (Jerusalem), and Adviser to the Palestinian peace negotiating team	Washington/Lisbon/ Washington	1 439
Labour member of Knesset, Israel	Tel Aviv/Lisbon/Tel Aviv	749
Senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organization	Tunis/Lisbon/Tunis	273

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organization	Tunis/Lisbon/Tunis	273
Representative of the Crown Prince of Jordan	Amman/Lisbon/Amman	570
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee of the German Parliament	Cologne/Lisbon/Cologne	66
Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution	Washington/Vienna/ Washington	1 439
Member, Israeli Knesset and Knesset Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee	Tel Aviv/Lisbon/Tel Aviv	749
Total (ii)		5 558
(iii) Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, a working group of the Global Environment Facility (UNEP)		
Professor, University of Ghana, and President of the Pan African Union of Science and Technology	Accra/Geneva/ Copenhagen/Accra	342
Professor, University of Ghana, and President of the Pan African Union of Science and Technology	Accra/Nairobi/Accra	176
Professor, University of Ghana, and President of the Pan African Union of Science and Technology	Washington/London/ Rome/Accra	623
Director, Programme interdisciplinaire de recherche sur les sciences pour l'énergie et les matières premières (PIRSEM)	Paris/Nairobi/Paris	503
Director, PIRSEM	Paris/Cotonou/Paris	419

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Mannheim	Frankfurt/Nairobi/ Frankfurt	249
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mannheim, member of the Parliament Commission, Protection of the Earth's Atmosphere	Frankfurt/Washington/ Frankfurt	221
Professor, University College, London, Special Adviser on Environmental Economics to the Secretary of State for the Environment, United Kingdom	London/Washington/London	534
Professor, University College, London, Special Adviser on Environmental Economics to the Secretary of State for the Environment, United Kingdom	London/Nairobi/London	624
Associate Director of Process Studies, Office of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Washington/London/Washington	1 629
Total (iii)		5 320
(iv) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People		
Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations	New York/Geneva/New York	722
Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations	New York/Geneva/... a/	361
Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations	New York/Paris/New York	2 248
Total (iv)		3 331

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
(v) Panel on African Development		
Assistant Secretary-General, Economic Development and Cooperation, Organization of African Unity (OAU)	Addis Ababa/Geneva/ Addis Ababa	120
Assistant Secretary-General, Economic Development and Cooperation, OAU	Addis Ababa/Rome/ Addis Ababa	280
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations	New York/Geneva/New York	1 870
Former President of Nigeria	Lagos/Geneva/Lagos	300
Former President of Nigeria	Lagos/Rome/Lagos	300
Total (v)		2 770
(vi) ESCAP Human Resources Development Award - Meeting of the Jury		
Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines	Manila/Bangkok/Manila	125
Total (vi)		125
(vii) Seminar on the Participation of Women in Politics		
Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Government of India	Delhi/Seoul/Delhi	127
Deputy Chief, United Front Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Government of the People's Republic of China	Beijing/Seoul/Beijing	202

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	Dhaka/Seoul/Dhaka	209
Senator, Philippines	Manila/Seoul/Manila	87
Total (vii)		625
(viii) High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council		
Former President of the General Assembly, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on issues related to inter-agency matters and development	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 247
Total (viii)		1 247
(ix) Adviser on Global Financial Issues and Assistance in the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General		
Consultant, Ambassador of India to the European Community	Brussels/New York/Brussels	1 316
Consultant, Ambassador of India to the European Community (EC)	Brussels/New York/Brussels	667
Total (ix)		1 983
(x) Meetings under the feasibility study by the United Nations University on Agenda 21		
Director-General and Chairman, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	Kuwait City/Paris/Kuwait City	150
Chairman, Rio Doce International	Rio de Janeiro/Paris/ Rio de Janeiro	400

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Chef de mission, Coop Tunis-Allemande	Tunis/Paris/Tunis	100
Former President, World Resources Institute	Washington/Paris/Washington	1 000
Total (x)		1 650
Total B		24 587
Grand total A and B		55 299

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex IV

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR PROMINENT PERSONS DONATING THEIR SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE TO THE ORGANIZATION

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A. First class		
Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF	Geneva/Nairobi/Somalia/Geneva	380
Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF	Tokyo/Ethiopia/Kenya/Tokyo	6 546
Total A		6 926
B. Business class		
Senior Adviser to the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization	Cairo/London/Cairo	217
Total B		217
Grand total A and B		7 143

Annex V

ARDUOUS JOURNEYS

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
First class		
(i) Security Council Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Permanent Representative of New Zealand	New York/Frankfurt/Zagreb/ Srebrenica/Zagreb/Frankfurt/ New York	2 436
Permanent Representative of Venezuela	New York/Frankfurt/Zagreb/ Srebrenica/Zagreb/Frankfurt/ New York	2 436
Permanent Representative of Hungary	New York/Frankfurt/Zagreb/ Srebrenica/Zagreb/Frankfurt/ New York	2 436
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation	New York/Frankfurt/Zagreb/ Srebrenica/Zagreb/Frankfurt/ New York	2 436
Deputy Permanent Representative of France	New York/Frankfurt/Zagreb/ Srebrenica/Zagreb/Frankfurt/ New York	2 436
Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan	New York/Frankfurt/Zagreb/ Srebrenica/Zagreb/Frankfurt/ New York	2 436
Total (i)		14 616
(ii) Security Council Commission to Angola		
Permanent Representative of Morocco	Windhoek/Paris/New York	2 236
Permanent Representative of Cape Verde	Windhoek/Paris/New York	2 236

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Permanent Representative of the United States of America	Windhoek/Paris/New York	2 236
Total (ii)		6 708
Total (i) and (ii)		21 324

Annex VI

EXCEPTIONS RELATING TO PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD

Reasons for exception		Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A.	First class			
(a)	Regular standard of accommodation not available	Staff member, Habitat	.../Manila/Kuala Lumpur/... a/	154
(b)	Eminent persons	Former Prime Minister of Portugal	Lisbon/Rio de Janeiro/Lisbon	1 350
	Total A			1 504
B.	Business class			
(a)	Regular standard of accommodation not available	Staff member, Habitat	Nairobi/Lagos/ Banjul/Nairobi	102
		Staff member, ECA	.../Lagos/ Libreville/...	46
		Staff member, ECA	.../Lagos/ Libreville/...	46
	Total B			194
	Grand total A and B			1 698

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/48/4
20 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Item 130 of the preliminary list*

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note has been prepared in response to section XIII, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 45/241 of 21 December 1990. In that resolution the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its forty-seventh session on procedures, whereby the Secretary-General and other executive heads could take measures regarding salary scales of the General Service category at variance with recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), only after consultations with appropriate intergovernmental bodies and the Commission.

2. Under article 12 of its statute, ICSC is vested with the authority to establish the relevant facts for, and make recommendations as to, the salary scales of staff in the General Service and other locally recruited categories at headquarters duty stations. At the same time, regulation 3.1 under article III of the Staff Regulations of the United Nations states that salaries of staff members shall be fixed by the Secretary-General. For staff members in the General Service category, the Secretary-General shall fix the salary scales for such staff members, normally on the basis of best prevailing conditions of employment in the locality of the United Nations office concerned. ICSC has developed a salary survey methodology in order to establish those conditions. Since the inception of the Commission, in the majority of cases ICSC recommendations have been implemented in their entirety at headquarters duty stations. In 1992, the Commission reviewed the methodology and proposed a number of adjustments and improvements. 1/

3. Close consultation between representatives of the administrations and staff of the organizations at a particular location and the secretariat of the Commission takes place on a continuous basis throughout the preparatory, data collection and data analysis phases of salary surveys. With regard to the

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decision-making phase, the staff regulations of the organizations of the United Nations common system set out the specific procedures for the manner in which salary scales for General Service staff shall be fixed. This authority, which may rest with the governing body or an executive head, is exercised only after taking all factors into consideration, including, in particular, the results of the surveys undertaken by ICSC, as reflected in its statute. The General Assembly, in the preambular part of section XIII of its resolution 45/241, indicated that it was appreciative of those broader managerial considerations.

4. The Secretary-General is of the view that consultation with the appropriate intergovernmental body and the Commission could provide a useful mechanism in cases where his decisions might be at variance with the specific technical recommendations of the Commission. In this way, the views expressed by Member States in such consultations could be taken fully into account in reaching a decision. Through his representatives at meetings of the Commission, a mechanism exists for consultations with ICSC at the time that its recommendations are being considered. The Secretary-General would propose that consultations with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) also be conducted, prior to making a decision on the establishment of General Service salaries following a survey.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/47/30 and Corr.1), paras. 208-233.